

REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed October 16, 2003. Claims 1, 11, 12, 18, 23, 24, 26, 27, 31, and 53-55 have been amended. Claims 3, 29, and 52 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 1, 2, 4-28, 30-51, and 53-58 are currently pending and at issue.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 3.

Claims 11 and 12 have been amended to depend from claim 1 rather than from canceled claim 3.

Claim 18 has been amended to depend from claim 13.

Claims 23 and 24 have been amended to depend from claim 22.

Claims 26 and 27 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 29.

Claim 31 has been amended to depend from claim 27 rather than from canceled claim 29.

Claims 53-55 have been amended to be in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim, canceled claim 52.

No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 18 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. According to the Examiner, claim 18 lacks antecedent basis with respect to the phrase "said glidant." Claim 18 has been amended to depend from claim 13, which recites antecedent basis for "said glidant." Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 22, 26-28, 37, 50, and 52 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Barry et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,055,306) ("Barry").

The rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter. Claim 3 has been canceled, without prejudice, and its allowable subject matter has been incorporated into independent claim 1. Therefore, independent claim 1 and all of its dependent claims contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 22 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 29 contains allowable subject matter. Claim 29 has been canceled, without prejudice, and its allowable subject matter has been incorporated into each of independent claims 26 and 27. Therefore, independent claims 26 and 27, and all of their dependent claims, contain allowable

subject matter. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 26, 27, 28, 37, and 50 should be withdrawn.

Claim 52 has been canceled, without prejudice. Therefore, the rejection of this claim is considered moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 3-5, 8-17, 20, 21, 23-25, 29-36, 38-49, 51, and 53-58 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 1, 11, 12, 26, 27, and 31 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter from original (and now canceled) claims 3 and 29. Additionally, claims 53-55 have been amended to be in independent form, incorporating all of the limitations of base claim 52. Consequently, all of the currently pending claims (i.e., claims 1, 2, 4-28, 30-51, and 53-58) recite allowable subject matter and should therefore be allowed.

Conclusion

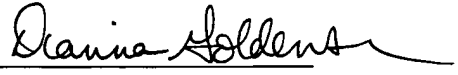
In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining, which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment,

the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 14, 2004

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